

CITY OF LACENTER
Clark County, Washington
January 1, 1994 Through December 31, 1995

Schedule Of Findings

1. The City Of LaCenter Should Follow State Law For Voting At Council Meetings

Our tests disclosed that the city did not always follow established voting procedures for passage of ordinances and resolutions. We found occasions where ordinances and resolutions for the payment of money were passed with less than the required affirmative vote of at least a majority of the whole membership of the council.

In September 1993, the city changed from a town to a noncharter code city, a mayor-council plan of government, with different legal requirements. Under the new form, the city must follow the *Revised Code of Washington* (RCW) 35A.12.120 which states in part:

At all meetings of the council a majority of the councilmen shall constitute a quorum for the transactions of business . . . The passage of any ordinance, grant or revocation of franchise or license, and any resolution for the payment of money shall require the affirmative vote of at least a majority of the whole membership of the council.

City officials were apparently unaware of the difference in RCW requirements that were effective when they changed forms of government. Additionally, we found that the lack of a majority vote was frequently the result of council members abstaining from voting on an issue.

We recommend that the city follow the applicable RCWs in the passage of its ordinances and resolutions.